

XI.—*A Note concerning Red Grouse on the Continent.*

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IT is no doubt within the knowledge of many that the Red Grouse (*Lagopus scoticus*) of the British Isles has been successfully introduced on the Continent, but it may not be so well known how remarkably the bird has thriven in its new quarters. In September last I had occasion to visit the Hohe Venn, that elevated region of moorland situated along the Germano-Belgian frontier south of Spa, and as I was aware that it was in this district that the experiment in acclimatization had been made, I naturally kept a lookout for examples of the bird, and in a short walk over a moor I flushed a strong covey.

The experiment has been watched with interest by continental sportsmen, and its progress has been noted in various periodicals, amongst others, 'Das Waidwerk im Wort und Bild,' 1896, pp. 81 & 161, 'Die Allgemeine Forst und Jagd Zeitung,' 1901, p. 399, and 'Das Centralblatt für das gesammte Forstwesen,' 1901, p. 323. From these we learn that the first attempt was made in Kreis Malmedy by A. Barry-Herrfeldt, of Schloss Marteau, who in October 1893 liberated some birds, which, however, only survived a fortnight. In the following December another attempt was made, but it also ended in failure. In August 1894 the same experimenter imported fifty pairs, and by the autumn of 1895 they or their progeny had spread all over the Hohe Venn. By 1901 the number of birds in the two "Kreise" of Malmedy and Montjoie was estimated at 1000 head, and this in spite of regular shooting for some seasons.

The successful outcome of the experiment has had a marked effect on the sporting value of land in the neighbourhood, shooting rents having risen greatly in value.

As regards close time, and penalties for killing out of season or by illegal methods, Belgium and Germany have practically bracketed the Grouse with the Partridge—that is to say, it is protected from December 1 to August 31—the penalty for killing a bird out of season being M. 6 in Germany, and presumably about the same in Belgium.